



**HAMILTON COUNTY**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES**

**LEPC Meeting, January 17, 2001**

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held January 17, 2001 at Wally's Restaurant, 1-75 and Ringgold Road, in East Ridge, TN.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, Chairman, Chattanooga Fire Department  
David Darnell, First Vice Chairman, BASF  
Larry Martin, Vice Chairman, McKee Foods  
Jamie Farrow, Vice Chairman, Conagra  
Joyce Wagner, Vice Chairman  
Bob Diehl, Vice Chairman, Electric Transit Vehicle Institute  
Wayne Stuntz, Title III Coordinator, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Rip Rohen, Hamilton County Emergency Services (Guest)  
Amy Maxwell, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Charles Chauncey, Hamilton County R.A.C.E.S.  
Bill Tate, Dupont Company  
Billy Mullins, TN State Guard  
Kevan Parker, HEPACO, Inc. (Guest)  
Kevin Condra, HEPACO, Inc. (Guest)  
Chuck Nichols, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Mike Brooks, East Ridge Fire Department  
Ken Gann, East Ridge Fire Department  
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods  
Chris Young, Atlanta Gas Light Company  
Denny Day, Ferguson Harbour, Inc.  
Kim Dalton, TN American Water Company  
Lori Bachus, TN American Water Company (Guest)  
Dawn Booker, NA Industries  
Buddy Kamin, Hamilton County Emergency Services (Guest)  
Brian Lopez-Cepero, Chattanooga Police Department  
Eddie Philipps, East Ridge Fire Rescue (Guest)  
Caren Ruffner, East Ridge Planning & Environmental (Guest)  
Girish Patel, Alco Chemical Company  
Richard Twitchell, Consultant, Chattanooga State

Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters  
Sam Bernard, Bernard & Assoc., P.C.

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Attendance (Cont.):

Maureen Handler, Environmental Response  
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace  
Fred Layne, Chattanooga Police Dept., Traffic Code  
David Ballard, PB&S Chemical  
Errol Reksten, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau  
Charles Goodner, Hamilton County R.A.C.E.S.  
Dane Creel, Nabisco, Inc. (Guest)  
Kenny Martin, SOFIX Corporation  
Harold Manning, Hamilton County Emergency Services (Guest)

Chairman Bruce Garner called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. He then asked everyone if they would please introduce themselves to the committee, as there were some new faces at the meeting. The Chairman announced to the committee that our guest speakers for the day would not be able to make the meeting. He said that Mr. Tony Weaver of the FBI was working a case and Mr. Bill Tittle, Hamilton County Chief, Emergency Management took ill. Both were to speak on the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

The Chairman reminded the committee that the sign-up sheet contained a space for recording individual e-mail addresses and urged everyone to record theirs. The Chairman said that the e-mail addresses would not be used indiscriminately — that they would be used to announce committee meetings, changes in plans, send meeting minutes, etc., thus reducing mailout expenses.

**Old Business:**

The Chairman then went on to Old Business, asking the Treasurer to give the LEPC financial report. Mr. Stuntz said that the current LEPC account balance was \$8858.72 and that we were currently awaiting the bill for the newspaper ad that announced this meeting which, when paid, would reduce the balance by \$17.60. He stated that thus far the County Auditor's office had not picked up the necessary financial documents to start the audit. However, Mr. Stuntz said he would see that the information reached the auditor's office by next week.

The Chairman then moved on to the minutes of the last meeting (November 15, 2000) and asked the committee if there were any corrections or comments regarding the last LEPC committee minutes. There being none, Mr. Charles Chauncey made the motion, seconded by Mr. Richard Twitchell, that the minutes be approved as presented. All members were in favor of approving the minutes.

### **New Business:**

The Chairman then went on to New Business. He reiterated his regret that our two guest speakers, for reasons beyond their control, could not attend today but assured the committee that Mr. Tittle and Mr. Weaver would hopefully be rescheduled for a later meeting to talk about Weapons of Mass Destruction and how they could affect our community.

The Chairman then asked Mr. Denny Day of Ferguson Harbour, Inc. if he would give an update on his company's response to recent hazardous materials incidents since our last meeting. Mr. Day spoke of an incident that occurred before Christmas last year on I-75 in Georgia involving a tanker with a load of acid and bases and gave a quick overview of that incident.

The Chairman then asked Tactical Services Chief Chuck Nichols of the Chattanooga Fire Department to talk about incidents the City has responded to since the last meeting. Chief Nichols said the city continues to respond to simple incidents involving leaks or spills and that most are dealt with in a routine manner with minimum impact on public safety or the environment. The Chief did, however, cite three significant incidents involving hazardous materials: (1) the derailment of four railroad tank cars loaded with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), (2) the accidental release of a strong concentration of sulfuric acid during the off-loading of a railroad tank car into a highway cargo tank truck at a local terminal, and (3) a serious propane leak and fire at a local bakery's bulk storage facility. Details of these incidents are on file with the SARA Title III Coordinator.

The Chairman then asked co-chairs of the following subcommittees to give a progress report. The subcommittee co-chairs responded with the following reports:

Conference Subcommittee: Chief Nichols said that they were 5 members strong and were currently awaiting to hear from TEMA (Tennessee Emergency Management Agency) on information regarding this year's HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning) grant.

LEPC By-Laws Subcommittee: Mr. Larry Martin said that this committee had met twice and that by nature of the subject — it will be a short-term subcommittee. He said that the proposed changes should be mailed out to committee members prior to the March meeting for everyone to peruse and comment on during that meeting.

Programs and Outreach Subcommittee: Ms. Joyce Wagner said that Chris Young of the Atlanta Gas Light Company would host the March 21<sup>st</sup> LEPC meeting and would present an emergency response demonstration. She also said that the Dupont Company

would host the May 2001 meeting. Ms. Wagner said that the committee would again be involved in information outreach, stressing the need for volunteers to help during the

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Chattanooga Made exhibition at Northgate Mall and also at the Creative Discovery Museum during Family Safety Day. Ms. Wagner also told the committee that if they had any ideas for programs to please let her know.

Emergency Plans Subcommittee: Mr. Eric Burnett said that their committee had met twice and that the reports just given by Chief Nichols and Mr. Denny Day would help them focus their attention on a working base for the needs of responders. Mr. Burnett said he welcomed others who wished to join the committee and said that it looked like the enormous task at hand would have to be divided into separate entities.

Ms. Caroline Williams suggested that the Plans subcommittee update the committee during the bi-monthly LEPC meetings regarding planning they are undertaking for a particular facility.

Membership Subcommittee: Ms. Amy Maxwell reported that the committee co-chaired by her and Bob Diehl had not had a meeting yet. Ms. Maxwell did say that she is in the process of contacting companies not members of the LEPC in hopes to encourage them to become members. She took this opportunity to introduce the following personnel who expressed a desire to become members of the LEPC: Lt. Buddy Kamin, Lt. Chip Manning and Capt. Rip Rohen, all of Hamilton County Emergency Services, and Dan Creel of the Nabisco Co.

The Chairman then seized the opportunity and asked if there were others present who wished to become members and of the LEPC. Mr. Kevan Parker and Mr. Kevin Condra of HEPACO and Caren Ruffner with East Ridge Environment and Planning signified their intent to become members of the LEPC. A motion was made by Mr. Richard Twichell and seconded by Brian Lopez-Cepero to accept these personnel as new members of the LEPC. The committee unanimously concurred.

The Chairman took this opportunity to also remind the committee that it takes a quorum of the committee to conduct business at the meetings. He said that even while some companies/agencies had two or more members represented at a meeting, only one could be counted when determining a quorum. He suggested that a primary be designated as well as an alternate or series of alternates — that when the primary was not able to attend a meeting, one of the alternates attend on their behalf. This also leads credence to the “one company/one agency/one vote” policy.

Mr. Girish Patel brought to the floor the subject of the LEPC’s annual solicitations letter (a.k.a. donations letter) and asked if it had been sent out yet. He suggested that if it had not gone out yet — that we waste no time in sending it to Tier II companies. The Chairman informed Mr. Patel that it had not gone out yet and assured him that the letter

was finished and would be given to the Membership subcommittee to get it out ASAP. The suggestion was also made that the letter be addressed to the person in the company

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that signed the Tier II forms. Additionally it was suggested that carriers (transport companies) of hazardous materials be included in the mailout.

Mr. Eric Burnett brought up the subject about the “LEPC Facility Data Survey” and whether it had been sent out yet. He stated that legislation requires companies to provide this information. The Chairman responded that the form was being held up pending review and that it would not be sent concurrently with the “solicitation letter.”

### **Other Business:**

The Chairman then asked if there was any other business. Mr. Denny Day of Furguson Harbour asked to address the committee. Mr. Day told the committee that Norfolk Southern had offered a scholarship for tuition to Lt. Harold Manning of Hamilton County Emergency Services to attend a weeklong Railroad Tank Car class in Pueblo, CO during the week of February 19, 2001. Mr. Day asked the committee –in the form of a motion – to grant approval to utilize \$1,000.00 of LEPC funds to defray the cost of food and lodging for that week. Ms. Maureen Handler seconded the motion. The Chairman then opened the issue for discussion. Several members of the Executive Committee, including the Chairman, expressed reservations about the short notice of the request, and also questioned the wisdom of using limited LEPC funds to support a government-funded agency. More discussion followed, with the Chairman pointing out that Mr. Day’s motion was still on the floor. The Chairman asked Mr. Day if he still wanted his motion voted on, despite the reservations expressed by some members of the LEPC. Mr. Day replied that he wanted a vote on his motion. The Chairman called for the vote and the motion was denied. Ms. Caroline Williams then made a motion that the decision should be left to the discretion of the LEPC Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Charles Chauncey and approved by the full committee.

Mr. Mike Edwards of McKee Foods brought to the attention of the committee that the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department had offered to park a second HAZMAT vehicle at their location and that the County’s only HAZMAT response vehicle was currently parked in Soddy Daisy. Mr. Edwards made an appeal to the committee at large that if anyone wanted to purchase or donate a needed second HAZMAT vehicle, it could be parked at Tri-Comm VFD and avoid having to drive all the way to Soddy Daisy to get the only county HAZMAT vehicle.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon followed by lunch at Wally’s restaurant. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2001 at Chattanooga Gas Company, 6125 Preservation Drive, just off Bonny Oaks Drive.

Respectfully submitted by:

Wayne Stuntz  
Secretary/Treasurer

Bruce Garner  
Chairman